

Thesis Abstracts

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THESIS ABSTRACTS

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David Grosvenor Coombs, "The Emergence of a White Collar Workforce in Toronto, 1895-1911." Ph.D. Thesis, York University, 1978.

Changes in the economy, in educational opportunities and in office conditions combined to precipitate significant changes in the composition of the white collar work force in Toronto at the turn of the century. White collar work ceased to be the sole preserve of middle age males from well to do backgrounds, as younger employees, a greater number of women and people from families representing a broader spectrum of occupational backgrounds began to enter white collar jobs. Many of these jobs suffered a loss of status as economic rewards and job conditions deteriorated relative to nineteenth century standards. The white collar work experience, however, was by no means uniform, as major differences in conditions of work and in the personal characteristics of employees existed between job levels and from one type of company to the next. Some of these differences were exacerbated during the period, resulting in a more divided work force by 1911.

This thesis focusses on the personal characteristics, work experience and home life of nearly 2,200 white collar workers living in Toronto during the years 1895 to 1911. The sample was drawn from the business records of several banks and insurance companies, a major department store, the Provincial government and the gas utility. The research examines their age, sex, religion, marital

status, family size, education and father's occupation. Secondly, it presents, in addition to their work record and salaries, a picture of working conditions including the size of office staffs, work regulations, types of office machinery and the degree of organization on the job. Thirdly, it analyses the extent of home ownership, the location and value of their homes and the rates and patterns of residential mobility. The results underline major, and in some cases increasing, differences in the white collar work force during the period, indicating that these workers did not represent a homogeneous class in 1911.

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Paul Adolphus Bator, "'Saving Lives on the Wholesale Plan': Public Health Reform in the City of Toronto, 1900-1930." Ph.D. Thesis, University of Toronto, 1979.

During the first decades of the twentieth century, the prevalence of infectious diseases, particularly in urban centres, sparked the development of the Canadian public health movement. A small number of medical men and women largely from Toronto fought to apply the principles of preventive medicine to ameliorate the health and fitness of the common Canadian. At the root of the drive for better health was the fear that the Canadian social order was deteriorating as a result of the uncontrolled expansion of the industrial city. Allied with this anxiety was the alarm concerning the arrival of large numbers of

different immigrants from the British slums and the European continent. The major leaders of the crusade to "Save Canadians from Degeneracy" were Dr. Peter Bryce, Dr. Charles Hodgetts, Dr. J.W.S. McCullough, Dr. Helen MacMurchy and Dr. Charles Hastings. They were shrewd pragmatists who, unlike their bureaucratic successors, displayed a willingness to cultivate political support in public in order to force elected officials to adopt their policies. They were triumphant in part because of the existence of a strong public health constituency made up of wealthy philanthropists and influential lay persons. These doctors not only drafted legislation but also administered the foundation of modern public health policies in Canada. The major legacy of Canadian public health reformers was the creation of a health bureaucracy in municipal, provincial and federal governments. The colourful and highly successful efforts of reformers in one city, Toronto, form the basis of the thesis.

The dissertation explores a wide variety of interesting material. It shows the extent to which public health reformers went beyond the confines of traditional medicine into non-medical areas such as property tax reform. The thesis illuminates the beginnings of the conflict between curative and preventive medicine. It briefly sketches the status of the Canadian medical profession in the first years of the new century and, especially, the salaries, complaints and social attitudes of doctors. The politics of public health is revealed in an analysis of the evolution of Toronto's Department of Public Health. This study sheds light on the fascinating spectrum of public

health reforms: the long and frustrating struggle to secure a clean water supply as well as the sanitary disposal of sewage in Toronto, the acrimonious battle between health officials and anti-vaccinationists, the campaign for safe milk, the influence of public health reformers on national immigration policies, the medical inspection of school children, the inauguration of "Baby Clinics," the establishment of public health nursing, housing reform, the care of the mentally retarded, the crusade against venereal diseases and the organization of the city's fragmented charities. The thesis also looks at the unique metropolitan character of Toronto to explain the unparalleled triumph of public health reformers in the Queen City.

At the basis of Toronto's public health crusade was a strong belief in the benefits of social control. For the first time outside the army and the school, ordinary men, women and children were subject to an unprecedented degree of supervision over their behavior. While most people applauded the dramatic decrease in mortality and morbidity rates, particularly among the young, many Torontonians resented the autocratic way in which public health experts achieved that goal. Despite the criticisms which some historians might hurl at public health reformers for their paternalism, prejudices and professional self-interest, there is little doubt concerning the improvement which they brought about in the health of the average citizen. They eased human suffering and saved lives from the ancient ravages of contagious diseases.

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Rebecca J. Younkin, "Three Periods of Growth in a Maritime Center: A Social History of Fredericton, New Brunswick, 1783-1851." M.A. Thesis, University of Guelph, 1979.

Between 1783 and 1851 Fredericton evolved from a colonial outpost to a small commercial city. Designated as a military depot and capital of New Brunswick, the community was situated up the Saint John River and endowed with an administrative/service-centre economy, a restrictive town plat and an aristocratic tone to society. In the initial years of settlement, local businesses engaged in a limited number of essential activities and relied heavily on the government and garrison for initiative and support. Spatial development assumed a downriver orientation where administrative buildings were located, while the population, numbering just 800 in 1802, was Loyalist in origin and frontier-like in demographic characteristics.

The 1820s and 1830s were years of prosperity in the province and brought a number of changes to its capital. However, such transformations were modest and occurred within the framework laid by the Loyalists. Businesses increased in number and offered more specialized services as hinterland demands broadened the base of commercial activity and permitted a lessening of reliance on the government and garrison sector. Construction on the plat reflected the "good times" and proceeded in an upriver direction on the first tier of blocks, while immigration and persistence contributed to a larger population, ethnic diversity, and a more "even" demographic composition. Despite such advancements, the town

remained an administrative centre and point of transshipment. Residential integration and the grid-iron of 1785 continued at the base of geographic development, and society preserved an aristocratic flavour closely associated with the government elite.

The years leading to 1851 introduced greater diversity and resulted in the emergence of a small but complex commercial city that persisted in operating within the Loyalist design. Commerce by mid-century had produced a second core of economic activity at the upriver part of town and was making its influence felt in local politics. At the lower end of the plat, administrative offices continued to dominate and house the aristocratic elite who were among the city's richest and most powerful residents. Economic inequalities were apparent in the community's wealthholding structure, while differences in ethnicity and religion reflected other, social divisions in the population makeup. Nevertheless, important aspects of the Loyalist imprint remained. Fredericton was still a centre for key provincial institutions and the trade of its businessmen continued to be service oriented. The initial town plat was basically unaltered and proceeded to restrict spatial development, while residential integration remained a characteristic of local life. Finally, despite population increase, immigration and emigration, the flavour of society was, as in the Loyalist years, dictated by government officials and their aristocratic pretensions.

Geographic location and economic function were important factors in the survival of the Loyalist intent. Situated upriver

and inland, the community was unable to participate directly in the export of staples to Great Britain. Consequently, the commercial sector failed to evolve beyond transshipment activities and never exceeded the influence of the administrative sector. Instead, merchants and craftsmen continued to cater to the "official party" and the fundamental features of the Loyalist design remained intact.

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B. Frank Clark, "Case Studies of the Elite of London." M.A. Thesis, University of Western Ontario, 1978.

This thesis is a contribution to the analysis of the rise, activities and interests of the Canadian elite by presenting a case study of five elite families in one major city, London, Ontario. The five families, selected as an occupational cross-section, were the Merediths, Labatts, Smallmans, Spencers and Ingrams, and their activities were traced from the arrival of the founders to almost the present day.

Recent commentators, such as John Porter, Wallace Clement and Peter Newman, have emphasized the interconnections among the Canadian elite, such as their common schooling and moral values, attendance at the same churches, intermarriage, membership in exclusive clubs and their business associations on the boards of directors of large companies. The five London families were examined with precisely these factors in mind. It was found that they conformed quite closely to the components set out in the above-mentioned analyses.

At least two of the elite families, the Merediths and the Labatts, had antecedents which were middle class or better. A great many of the children of the second generation went to private schools of one sort or another. Religion was also a common denominator. The five families which were studied attended three of the four main upper class Protestant churches in London, St. Paul's Cathedral (Church of England), Cronyn Memorial Church (Church of England) and the First-Methodist Church. All these churches are situated in the Queen's-Dufferin Avenue area of London, where many of the elite families had their homes.

Intermarriage was found to be common. The daughters of John K. Labatt and one daughter of the second John Labatt married into the elite of London, of Canada and even of Great Britain. The Meredith family provided excellent examples of elite mobility and interconnections. The London Merediths had cousins who were prominent members of both the Montreal and Toronto elites. Sir Henry Vincent Meredith and his brother, Charles, became important members of the Montreal financial community and, in the process, married into the upper class.

Membership in exclusive luncheon clubs was another elite characteristic. Considering the size of London there could be only one exclusive club, the London Club, and a majority of the members of the five families studied belonged to it. The most important of the national clubs, according to Peter Newman, are the Rideau in Ottawa, the Toronto Club, the Mount Royal in Montreal and the Vancouver Club. Sir Henry Vincent Meredith, Charles Meredith, Sir William Ralph Meredith, Hume Cronyn

and Sydney Mewburn had memberships in at least one of these clubs.

These families met and worked with each other on various boards of directors in and around London. This was true for every generation studied. Considering four major financial institutions which have had their headquarters in London, the London Life Insurance Company, the Huron and Erie Mortgage Corporation, the Canada Trust Company and the London and Western Trusts Company, which merged with the Canada Trust in 1947, once again different members of the five families turned up on the boards of directors of one or all of these corporations during the period examined. In so doing, they were put in touch with a Canada-wide elite of businessmen.

The conclusions of the thesis generally support the preliminary analyses of Newman, Porter and Clement and point up the previously mentioned major characteristic of the elite which is their manifold interconnections, such as are shown to have been the case throughout the whole history of this portion of the London upper class.

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Robert Stewart Brown, "Joseph Warner Murphy and the Mechanics of Political Survival, 1945-1963." M.A. Thesis, University of Western Ontario, 1979.

This thesis is a political study of the career of the Conservative member for Sarnia and its immediate hinterland, which comprised the riding of Lambton West, from 1945 to 1962. The thesis particularly deals with the techniques of local "pork-barrel" politics through which Murphy was

able to secure his re-election, even through the most trying days of Conservative opposition. The analysis has been made possible through the recent donation of the Murphy Papers to the University of Western Ontario by his family. Murphy sat in the House of Commons from 1945 to 1962, and the papers are almost entirely intact from 1957 to 1963. Therefore, much of the research presented in the thesis has concentrated on those years. Despite the dearth of information on the years from 1945 to 1957, as well as on Murphy's early life, it has been possible to present a reasonably comprehensive account of his parliamentary career.

Murphy did not enter the Commons until he was fifty-three. Not surprisingly, he brought with him a great deal of experience from his other careers as a lawyer, magistrate, businessman, realtor, farmer and township councillor. He was nothing if not well prepared for difficulties, and difficulties bedevilled his career as a Member of Parliament. Elected as a Conservative in Lambton West by a fluke, only because he faced a tired and somewhat discredited candidate, Murphy was aided in his retention of power by a number of lucky events and his own political adroitness. He should have gone out again at the subsequent election because Lambton West was, if anything, a Liberal stronghold of remarkable stability. Instead he survived for seventeen years.

Always respected rather than loved in his riding, Murphy was nonetheless a "riding man" of unusual dimensions through his constituency work, patronage, public works, use of the media and an uncanny ability to distinguish and to seize upon an issue which would

appeal to his electors. Murphy had to persuade Lambton West voters to cast their ballots for him personally, not for his party. So everything he did, from issues in Parliament to constituency matters, was done with an eye upon his voters, the interests of Sarnia and environs and the dates of elections. His consistency was the consistency of parish affairs, not of Conservative or national interests. As a result, he was returned by voters who put personality and "good works" above party.

A George Drew rather than a John Diefenbaker man, the flamboyant Murphy reached the opposition front benches, but he was probably considered too old for the cabinet by the time the Conservatives came to power. With no cabinet post and increasing age, he attempted to find a graceful (and profitable) way to retire undefeated. He did not succeed and became a casualty in the 1962 election, after which he expected Diefenbaker both to appoint him to the Senate and make him an Ontario organizational official. This did not happen, and Murphy, in what was either a reaction to defeat, or an attempt at revenge, lashed out against Diefenbaker himself before fading back into a distinguished obscurity.

Murphy may not have left any lasting impression in Canadian history, yet he does deserve study as an example of a consummate politician in action at the local level. Like other elective legislative bodies, the Canadian Parliament has always contained a fair number of Murphys, influential while they are there, forgotten when they are gone. The causes that they direct are rarely spectacular but still have some

significance. The local patronage that they distribute may have great effect on the evolution of their ridings. The buildings that they build may both change the face of their towns and redirect their development. In essence, the Murphys are a class of men about whom we know too little and yet can still tell us something of our nation and its component localities.

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H.L. Macleod, "Properties, Investors, and Taxes: A Study of Calgary Real Estate Investment, Municipal Finances, and Property Tax Arrears, 1911-1919." M.A. Thesis, University of Calgary, 1977.

Calgary, in the years 1911 to 1919, went through a boom and collapse of which a principal manifestation was activity in the city's real estate market. The collapse of the real estate boom created severe difficulties both for investors and for the city. As real estate sales fell off, so too did Calgary tax collections, leaving both property owners and the city under the burden of mounting debt loads. Despite its financial problems, however, the city was extremely reluctant to foreclose on properties on which taxes had not been paid.

This study examines the problem of tax arrears firstly from the perspective of Calgary's municipal finances and secondly through a sample of thirty-seven selected real estate investors who held various types of Calgary property. The examination of municipal finances reveals the manner in which uncollected taxes were regarded and used by the city

as assets and in consequence why the civic authorities were so reluctant to foreclose on properties in arrears. The examination of the thirty-seven investors and their holdings in five categories of Calgary property establishes general patterns of tax arrears. The investors who were most seriously in arrears held a type of property which could not be resold even at the height of the boom or bought their properties too late to resell them.

When the city, having exhausted the available alternatives, finally did resort to foreclosure and auction of the properties in arrears, the properties proved to be no more saleable at auction than they had been on the open market. In consequence, the city acquired by default a very large quantity of land which it did not want and was forced to write off the arrears of taxes owing on the land, while a large number of investors were dispossessed of their property.